

ArtsGram

Monumental Expressions



A Daily Publication of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival

Tuesday, October 17, 2006

South Dakota Veterans Welcome You!

Everyone is familiar with the four famous faces of the Black Hills – Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln – the ones adorning Mount Rushmore. Today, we introduce four others, belonging to Eckman, Fonck, Garnette and Scout, area veterans participating in this year's Creative Arts Festival.

Alan Eckman, a 59-year-old Marine Corps veteran from Rapid City, is showing his winning artwork entitled, "Marking the LZ," a cast paper sculpture of himself as a radio operator in Vietnam. Eckman won first place and special recognition in the military combat experience category.

After training as a field radio operator, Eckman was sent to a helicopter base in Chu Lai, Vietnam, where he accompanied the infantry units and provided communications. Later, he volunteered as a helicopter gunner and completed 43 combat missions.

He recommends that everyone visit the Journey Museum and Prairie Edge Gallery in Rapid City. "The Black Hills have a rich history and veterans have always had an integral role in forming the history of our nation," he said. "This combination makes a perfect setting for this year's Festival."

Thomas J. Fonck, 60, an Army veteran from Keystone, served as a Captain in Vietnam from 1968-1970. Like many, Fonck still deals with the effects of that experience but credits VA programs with helping him better understand himself and his circumstance.

Born in the Black Hills, Fonck enjoys the chance to share them with fellow participants. "The diversity of our ecosystem in the Black Hills allows a wide range of wildlife to exist, from the prairie dog to the majestic elk and bison," he said.

Fonck won first place in the national creative writing competition with a poem describing his Army experience. He will perform as a chorus member in Sunday's show.



Ted Garnette, 71, served in the Air



Local winners Theodore (Ted) Garnette (l), Alan Eckman, and Thomas Fonck welcome fellow veterans to the Creative Arts Festival

Force from 1953-1958 and lives in Pine Ridge. Much of his military service was devoted to classified work through the National Security Service.

Garnette's artwork, entitled "Fly for Freedom," won first place in the beadwork category. The inspiration came to him after September 11, 2001. "I wanted to do a piece that would show we are a free country," he said.

It took him nearly one year and more than \$800 worth of beads. The eagle in the design represents Garnette's Native American (Lakota) culture. "When one enters the military, our culture gives an eagle feather to the true warrior," he said. "I never thought of anything like this when I entered. It feels good that a regular person like me could accomplish something like this, to help further the Lakota culture." Garnette is anxious to share his rich history and heritage, and the sacred *Paha Sapa* (Lakota for "Black Hills") with all Festival participants.

Frank A. Scout is a 75-year-old Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War, who lives at the state veterans home in Hot Springs.

All through childhood, Scout's grandfathers relayed stories

See "Welcome," continued on page 2



Presented by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Help Hospitalized Veterans and American Legion Auxiliary



Studio Notes

Handy tips for the portrait artist

While you are here at the Festival, you may have an opportunity to see some portraits on your tours of art museums and historical sites. Take a minute to sketch them as you go through the day. Listed below are a few suggestions that will help you become a better portrait artist:

1. Keep a sketchbook. Carry it with you whenever you can. Fill it up with lots of drawings. Don't think that every page has to have something *serious* on it. Get an inexpensive sketchpad, and just draw. Have fun, and please yourself. It's *your* sketchbook!

2. While working on a drawing, frequently look at your drawing in the mirror. Or, put your sketch up to a bright light and look at it in reverse. This will allow you to see lopsided flaws in your drawing that you may not have noticed otherwise.

3. Look at the drawing upside-down. This will help you see if anything is crooked, or lopsided (crooked eyes, mouth, etc.). Drawing upside-down helps you see things abstractly, and assists in drawing accurately.

4. Learn to draw properly! DON'T trace photographs! Also, don't use the grid method as your primary way of getting an image onto the paper.

5. Draw subjects you like. Don't let anyone around you tell you that your portrait choices are silly or weird. Please yourself. It's your talent, your time and effort, not anyone else's. Remember, drawing is supposed to be FUN!

6. Wait a few days before declaring a drawing finished. Often, it takes several days for you to become less attached to the drawing. You will then be able to notice some additional flaws and errors in the drawing. This is not uncommon – it is part of the process.



“Welcome,” continued from page 1



Frank Scout of Hot Springs, S.D.

through the oral traditions of the Lakota. After he had a stroke, Scout asked a friend to help him write down those stories, which he translated to English. Last year, Scout self-published the collection, with illustrations in “Grandfather’s Bedtime Stories.”

In addition to writing stories, Scout also wrote a song entitled, “Sioux Valley,” which earned special recognition in the national music competition.

Sioux Valley will be featured in the stage show opening, sung by fellow veteran Paul Boruff and Albert Gray Eagle.

“Knowing that the legends and history of my ancestors will live on through my writing is tremendously satisfying,” Scout said. “I’m extremely grateful to all of the people who have helped me along this journey and I’m excited to be part of this Festival. I know my fellow veterans will be inspired by the beauty and serenity of the Black Hills this week.”

All four veterans look forward to sharing local “Monumental Expressions” with you all week.

Festival Fun Facts

One of the great aspects of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is the camaraderie among its veteran participants. There are many experiences, talents and interesting facts about this year’s group. Today through Sunday, we will feature just a few of these highlights about some of our medal winning artists and performers.

- Army veteran, John Bigham, of Rosemont, Pa., won high honors in the national music competition in the instrumental solo category. Chances are Bingham’s experience playing keyboard for the legendary **Chubby Checker** will be apparent when he takes the stage in Rapid City on Sunday!

- Two performers in Salt Lake City’s *Salty Dogs* have the same name – which makes sense since one is the other’s father. Raymond H. Ross, 83, is an Army veteran who served in combat during WWII. His son, Ray Ross, 58, is also an Army veteran, who served in combat in Vietnam. But don’t confuse them with Ronald “Doc” Ross, 68, another Vietnam veteran who served in both the Navy *and* the Marine Corps – that Ross is an artist!



There's Gold in Them There Hills

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills of South Dakota in the late 1870s and 80s led to one of the most dramatic historical events of America's early frontier. It was in this sleepy valley that the American Dream was re-defined, when an accidental discovery near an obscure river forever changed a young nation. The simple life would no longer



be enough, and in its place came a new kind of lifestyle: entrepreneurial, wide-open, free. The new American dream: to get rich and make a fortune – quickly.

The history of the Black Hills gold rush actually began in 1874, when an expeditionary force of 1,000 was led by the

infamous Brevet Major General George Armstrong Custer of the 7th U.S. Cavalry, into the Black Hills area, a 1,000-square-mile region held sacred by the Sioux. A few months after the group's arrival, a man named Horatio N. Ross discovered gold along French Creek (near present-day Custer) in the central Black Hills.

After this discovery, the conflict over control of the region sparked the last major Indian War on the Great Plains, the Black Hills War. The 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie had previously confirmed the Lakota ownership of the mountain range. When the treaty was contested, they additionally claimed rights to the land saying that in their culture it was

considered the sacred center of the world.

However, some consider the claim a dubious



(Above) Homestake Gold Mine in 1877. (Right) Placer miners in Black Hills during the gold rush.



pretension to keep the gold-rich territory since the Sioux tribe had only discovered the Black Hills about 100 years earlier (1765) and that they themselves took the land by force from its previous residents (the Cheyenne tribe) in 1776.

Custer's announcement triggered not only the Black Hills Gold Rush, but gave rise to the lawless town of Deadwood, site of the Homestake Mine. Deadwood attained notoriety for the murder of Wild Bill Hickok, and remains the final resting place of both Hickok and Calamity Jane. During the



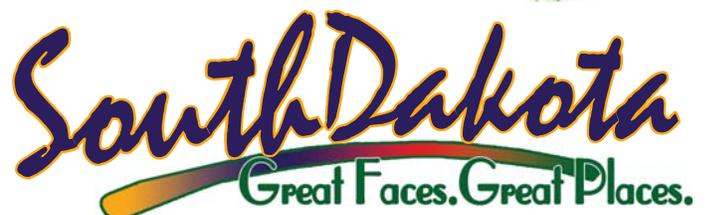
Custer's forces during their Black Hills expedition in 1874.

1875–1878 gold rush, thousands of miners went to the Black Hills; in 1880, it was the most densely populated part of Dakota Territory. Railroads were already reaching the previously remote area. From 1880 on, the gold mines yielded about \$4,000,000 annually, and the silver mines about \$3,000,000 each year.

A fire in 1879 devastated the town of Deadwood, destroying over 300 buildings and consuming everything belonging to many inhabitants. Without the opportunities of rich untapped veins of ore that characterized the town's early days, many of the newly impoverished left town to try their luck elsewhere.



Today, gold continues to be mined in the state, and South Dakota's Homestake Mine remains one of the largest gold producers in the U.S. Prairie, grassland and farmland now cover 90 percent of the state, where buffalo once ranged in herds of thousands.





Stage Notes

Do's and Don'ts For Taking Care of Your Voice

With a busy week ahead of you filled with rehearsals and sightseeing, it is important to take care of your voice. Follow these few suggestions and you will be in top form for the show on Sunday!

Do's:

- Drink as much water as you can.
- Rest your voice on performance days.
- Remember to do exercises to warm up your voice.
- Allow your voice plenty of time to heal if you get sick.
- Remember to get lots of rest and eat a well-balanced diet.
- Open your mouth more when you talk – it will help the sounds come out better.
- Avoid things that dry your system, such as alcohol, carbonated beverages and caffeine.

Don'ts:

- Smoke; and always avoid second hand smoke.
- Sing outside of your possible range.
- Practice your lines too much at one time. Pace yourself.
- Whisper because it sends extra air to the vocal cords and dries them out.
- Use a monotone voice all the time. Make sure you vary how your words come out.
- Clear your throat or cough if you can avoid it. This causes irritation in the vocal chords.
- Slouch if you're sitting down because it makes it more strenuous for you to speak.

Take care of your voice – it is the most important part of many performances!



Veterans History Project

Veterans History Project (VHP) interviews will take place all week (through Saturday) in the VHP taping room (Needles Room, Convention Center I). Artists, performers and staff members or volunteers, who are veterans, may be interviewed today, from 8 a.m. – noon and again from 1 – 5 p.m. Take advantage of your free time and sign up for your interview with Butch Miller. This historic project honors our nation's veterans by creating a lasting legacy of their military experience. Regardless of branch or period of service, age, military career or experience, all veterans are invited to share it with our VHP program staff this week at the Festival and help make history!

Veterans' interviews will be taped and given to the Library of Congress. Each participant will also receive a special VHP tote bag, a DVD copy of their interview and a VHP Challenge Coin. Interviews will take place through Saturday at the same times and location.

Sign up soon!



THE JOURNEY MUSEUM

... Where Spirit Lives

Please join us today on a trip that will teach you about the Black Hills from the past to

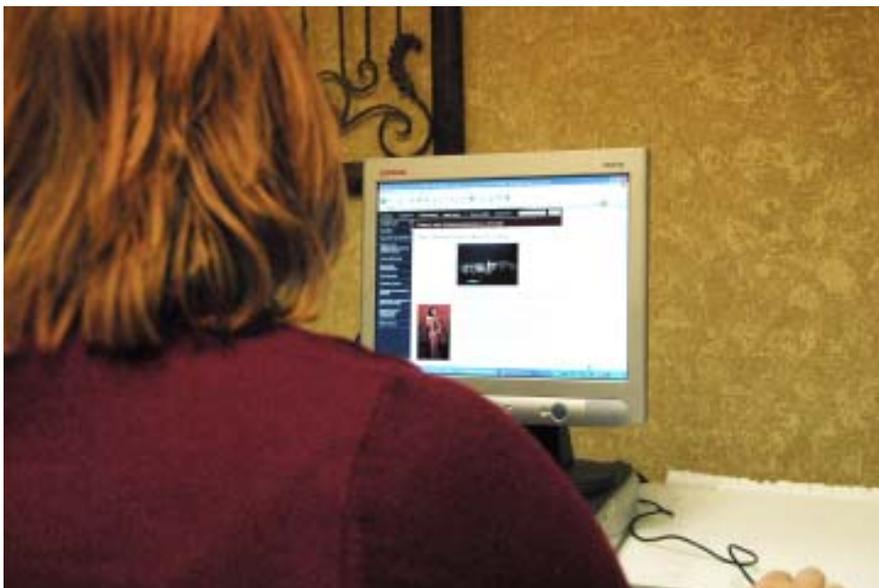
the present. Buses begin loading at 3 p.m. for a tour of The Journey Museum, returning to the hotel at 5 p.m.

The Journey Museum brings together four major prehistoric and historic collections to tell the complete story of the Western Great Plains – from the perspective of the Lakota people and the pioneers who shaped its past, to the scientists who now study it. Your experience will include a trek through time, from the violent upheaval that formed the Black Hills over 2.5 billion years ago to the establishment of this beautiful western frontier.

Discover where dinosaurs lie buried beneath prairie soil. Learn why the Sioux call their sacred Black Hills the “Center of the Universe.” Experience the hardships of the homesteaders as they settled in the wilderness.

To fully understand the legacy of the Black Hills and its people, this is a journey you will not want to miss!





INTERNET CAFE OPEN

Located in Convention Center I, Bear Butte Room, Tuesday through Saturday 7 - 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., 7 - 9 p.m. (except Thursday and Saturday evenings)



Roy Erbele, Festival chorus member, demonstrates how to play the small harmonica he wears around his neck



Hospitality room, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of South Dakota, provides snacks and laughter to Festival guests. From left, Sereta Douthit, Bill Hawarth (Festival music director), Annette Gray and Marsha Boyd

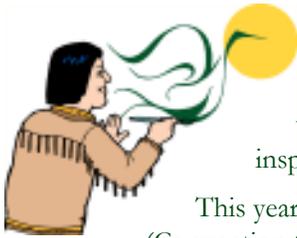


From left: Loren (John) Prather, Norm Noftzger, Lorren Murren and Ron Samuels search for their luggage in the lobby of the Ramkota





Artist Interaction Session Held Today



The Artist Interaction Session is an annual Festival activity, featuring visual artists as they share their stories, describe their artwork, explain the concept behind their visions and tell more about how they created their award-winning pieces. Family, friends, local media, volunteers and VA staff will all be there to view the award-winning artwork and enjoy the inspiration.

This year's Artist Interaction Session will be held today in the Pactola Room (Convention Center II) in the Ramoka Hotel. Beginning at 8:30 a.m., Teams I and II will assemble by their artwork for photos. Teams III and IV are asked to arrive for their photos at 9 a.m. Following photos and media interviews, the formal slide and oral presentations will begin with each artist describing their work. Note: Lunch for the artists and others involved with interaction session will be held next door in the Sheridan room beginning at noon. The interaction session will continue at approximately 1:15 p.m. and is scheduled to end at 2:30 p.m.



At the stage show finale, there are some wonderful opportunities for you to display your many talents with special vocal solos, narrations, acting parts and small group ensembles. All are encouraged to try out for these parts.

Audition rehearsals for solos, narrations and other stage opportunities are today, from 4-5:30 p.m. and in the evening from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Breakouts are in the following rooms: Vocalists report to the Badlands Room, narrations are in the Roosevelt Room, and actors go to the Lincoln Room. Those wanting to audition must attend one of these rehearsal sessions.



Take a look at the wide variety of opportunities just waiting for your talent. There's something for everyone!

- One narrator for "Sioux Valley," an original music entry with narration.
- One narrator for "Just Something I wanted to Share," an original creative writing entry.
- Two narrators for a special piece
- Four narrators for various quotes during the production number, "America the Beautiful."
- Two soloists for verses of the production number, "Amazing Grace"

- Five narrators for various short quotes during the production number, "Faces of Freedom," as well as to read, "I Am Your Flag."
- One vocal soloist for "Some Gave All."
- Three vocal soloists for the verses of the production number, "Faces of Freedom."
- One small group ensemble to sing in the production number, "Star Spangled Banner."
- Actors for "Just Something I Wanted to Share."
- Various actors for different scenes in the production number, "Faces of Freedom."
- Various actors for a train scene, including a conductor, a shoe-shine person, a ticket-taker, etc.
- Six flag bearers to carry in the five military service flags and the American flag in the production number, "A Salute to American Service."
- A small "cabaret" scene for actors to sit in a nightclub to watch the acts. If auditioning, actors should have brought their own pre-approved formal attire. The Festival does not provide costumes for this act.



The actual auditions begin Wednesday morning from 9 – 11 a.m. during chorus rehearsals. Please be prepared to audition all your desired pieces when you are called. Break a leg!

Reminder: Please turn in your audition forms to either your team leader or Donna Lonergan by 8 p.m. tonight!



F-Y-I



Meet with your team leader every morning (Wednesday through Friday) at 8:30 a.m. at the designated location determined at Monday

night's meeting. On Saturday, October 21, the team meetings will begin at 9 a.m. On Sunday, October 22, the meetings will begin at 11 a.m.

NVCAF Web site www.creativeartsfestival.org

Would you like your friends and family back home to be able to see what you are doing this week? Tell them to log onto the Festival Web site to check out the daily editions of the *ArtsGram* (on the main home page) as well as individual news releases and photos, located on the "Participant Information" tab.

Medical Suite

The medical support team is located in Room 1702 and team members are available at all times during the Festival week. They will also accompany all tours away from the hotel and will be wearing red hats. There will be water available on the buses and vans. If you have a medical concern or health issue, please contact your team leader. We hope to make your stay here in Rapid City the very best.



The Hospitality Room, staffed by gracious volunteers, offers snacks, soft drinks, juices, and coffee for all Festival participants, staff, and volunteers. Located in Ramkota Room 1114, the Hospitality Room will be open today from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Be sure to stop by and pick up a beverage or a snack in between activities.



All meals, unless otherwise indicated, will be provided in the Rushmore Room, Convention Center I.

Meal hours are as follows:

Breakfast: 7 – 8:30 a.m.

Lunch: Noon – 1 p.m.

Dinner: 5:30 – 6:45 p.m.

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Breakfast

Bacon Strips, Potato Bake, Scrambled Eggs
Bagels with Cream Cheese, Muffins, Butter and Jelly
Orange Juice, Apple Juice and Tomato Juice
Milk (Soy milk available upon request)
Oatmeal & Dry Cereal
Individual Yogurts and Fresh Fruit

Lunch

Super Sub Buffet

Turkey and Ham Sub Sandwich, Tomato, Lettuce and Swiss cheese on French Batard
Vegetarian Soup, Macaroni Salad, Kettle Chips
Chocolate Fudge Brownies
Assorted Gourmet Cookies

Dinner

A Taste of Italy

Deep Dish Meat Lasagna, Italian Sausage with Peppers and Onions
Penne Pasta, Alfredo and Meat Marinara Sauce
Italian Vegetable, Tomato, Cucumber and Onion Salad
Italian Salad with Vinaigrette Dressing and Ranch Dressing
Bread Sticks/Garlic Toast
Tiramisu for Dessert



High: 61° Low: 32°

Snow flurries, mixed with rain.



Tuesday, October 17, 2006

7 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel —
Rushmore Room, CCI

8 – 8:30 a.m. Late Registration — Sylvan II, CCII

9 – 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open —
Suite 1114

8:30 a.m. Teams I and II report to the
Pactola Room, CCII for photos

9 a.m. Teams III and IV report to the
Pactola Room, CCII for photos

10 a.m. Artists Interaction Session begins
at Ramkota Hotel — Pactola, CCII

Noon Lunch at hotel —
Sheridan Room, CCII

1:15 – 2:30 p.m. Artist Interaction Session
continues — Pactola, CCII

3 p.m. Board buses for Tour —
Journey Museum

3:30 - 5 p.m. Tour Journey Museum

5 p.m. Board buses and return to hotel

5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Dinner — Rushmore Room, CCI

7 – 9:30 p.m. Ice cream social and caricature
drawings — Legion 2, CCII

9:30 – 11 p.m. Karaoke and Talent/Social time
at hotel — Legion 2, CCII

7 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel —
Rushmore Room, CCI

8 – 8:30 a.m. Late Registration — Sylvan II, CCII

8:30 a.m. – Noon Introductions and
announcements
for ALL stage performers and
staff. Individual acts introduced
and perform in costume in show
order — Washington Room, CCI

9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open —
Suite 1114

Noon Lunch at hotel —
Rushmore Room, CCI

1 - 5:30 p.m. Chorus number and individual act
rehearsal — Washington Room,
Badlands Room, CCI

1 – 5:30 p.m. Chorus member vests, other
costume fittings —
Lincoln Room, CCI

4 – 5:30 p.m. Rehearsal and sign up for audition
solos and narration as scheduled
— Badlands, Lincoln, Jefferson
and Roosevelt, CCI

5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Dinner — Rushmore Room, CCI

7 – 9:30 p.m. Chorus number and individual act
rehearsal — Washington Room,
Badlands Room, CCI

7 – 9 p.m. Chorus member vests, other
costume fittings —
Lincoln Room, CCI

8:30 – 9:30 p.m. Rehearsal and sign up for audition
solos and narrations as scheduled
— Badlands, Lincoln, Jefferson &
Roosevelt, CCI

7 – 9:30 p.m. Ice cream social and caricature
drawings — Legion 2, CCII

9:30 – 11 p.m. Karaoke/Social Time —
Legion 2, CCII



Schedule legend:
CCI - Convention Center I
CCII - Convention Center II

Please check with your team leader or the posted schedule outside of the Washington Room for any changes or updates to your daily schedule.